

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

1. WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, more than one million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, each year 40,000 babies are born with congenital heart defects in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, despite these conditions, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Senate, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize February 14, 2005, as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day in Missouri.

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